ABSTRACT

A secure, high-throughput, scalable apparatus and method of downloading software products and other data to authorized customers over the internet. A plurality of processes are run on different host machines. The machines communicate with each other via a secured link. This link uses DES encryption and an index to the DES keys, rather than passing the key itself over the link. Once derived, the indexed key is used for encryption and decryption over the communication link. File staging is accomplished by using a hard link between the file storage area and the customer account area. A customer account database is maintained on a secure machine as protected via a firewall. A secured link is also used through the firewall to securely allocate user access to file downloads.